

III. Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1-3, 5 and 9-11 have been amended. The above amendments and the following remarks are provided to facilitate early allowance of the currently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 9-11 have been objected to because of informalities. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 9-11 have been revised to incorporate the Office's suggestions. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. With regard to claim 4, Applicant respectfully traverses the objection because the "listing" claimed in claim 4 contains additional features to the "listing" claimed in claim 1 and may not be same "listing" as claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chmielewski et al. (USPN 5,946,465); claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (USPN 6,539,481 B1); and claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chmielewski et al. in view of Takahashi et al. Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable and thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections for the reasons stated below.

With regarding to claims 1, 5 and 10, the current invention includes, *inter alia*, “determining whether the resources have been held by the remote client without activity for a period longer than a preset threshold[,]” as recited in claim 1 and claimed similarly in claims 5 and 10. This feature is related to the features claimed in the rejected original claim 8 of the current invention. As the Office admitted, Chmielewski et al. do not disclose this feature. (Office Action at page 8). Contrary to the Office’s conclusion, Applicant submits that Takahashi et al. do not overcome this deficiency of Chmielewski et al. Takahashi et al. disclose a computer resource assignment system including a support function to “postpone the use period of the temporary registration.” (Col. 7, lines 59-60). The Takahashi et al. system checks whether a use period of a temporary registered user is expired and if the user period is expired, the Takahashi et al. system checks whether the user is still using the resource by determining a last use date. (See, col. 8, lines 1-13.) In Takahashi et al., if a temporary registered user’s use period is expired and the user is not using the resource (last use date is not “USING”), the resource assigned to the user is deleted. That is, in Takahashi et al., there is no disclosure about a period that the resource is held without activity (inactive period) and there is no disclosure about whether the period exceeds a preset threshold, because in Takahashi et al., an assigned resource will be deleted as soon as a use period (not an inactive period) is expired and a resource is not presently used (inactive at the time point not for a period). In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 5 and 10.

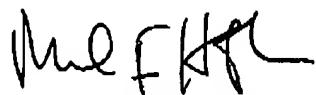
With regarding to claim 9, Takahashi et al. do not disclose “determining whether a client has been using a resource within a predetermined period of time and, if not, releasing the

resource[.]” The Takahashi et al. system checks whether a use period of a temporary registered user is expired and if the use period is expired, the Takahashi et al. system, instead of “releasing the resource[,]” checks whether the user is still using the resource by determining a last use date. (See, col. 8, lines 1-13.) In the Takahashi et al. system, if a user is still using a resource, the resource will not be deleted, even though the use period is expired. (See, col. 8, lines 16-23. “If the user whose use period has expired is using the system at the present, ... The message asks whether the user postpones the use period... If the user requests a postponement of the expiration, a new use period is set [.]”) That is, Takahashi et al. do not disclose “if not, releasing the resource[.]” In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9.

Claims 2-4 are dependent upon claim 1; claims 6-8 are dependent upon claim 5; and claim 11 is dependent upon claim 10. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reason as stated above, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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